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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION 	NO DATE April 1988	STAT
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/MOD				
2.				
3. C/ESG				
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5. C/FED				
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7. C/ADD				
8.				
9. C/HED				
10.				
11. C/Computer Operations				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15. Retain/Destroy				

2 May 1988
FBIS-5809-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--April 1988

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial\Editorial

1. As the month ended, both RSA and Angolan officials confirmed that preparations were underway for a 4-party conference in London to include Angola, South Africa, Cuba and the United States. The purpose of the negotiations is to achieve a regional settlement that would end Angola's 12-year-old civil war, and result in the withdrawal of Cuban and South African troops from Angola.

2. The South African Government yielded to mounting public pressure for details of RSA involvement in the fighting in Angola and held a briefing for military correspondents in which SADF Chief Geldenhuys admitted to the loss of three tanks and 31 men, while claiming that Angola had lost 94 tanks, 22 aircraft, and almost 5,000 men in the fighting since May of 1987. General Geldenhuys claimed that there had never been more than 3,000 RSA troops in Angola at any given time and that the current number was "considerably less." He estimated that the failed offensive against UNITA had cost the Angolans the entire military budget for the year.

3. In his annual budget speech in Parliament, RSA President P.W. Botha proposed constitutional changes that he claimed would allow for limited black participation in government through the President's Council. He also called for the restoration of the post of prime minister and promised to introduce legislation to amend the Group Areas Act to allow for integrated or "gray" urban areas. The proposals were rejected by conservative whites as a "dangerous speech" which threatened to lead to black power. Liberal whites and most black leaders such as Archbishop Tutu and Chief Buthelezi found the proposals "disappointing" in that they fell short of political representation in Parliament for blacks.

4. In Zimbabwe, special congresses of the ruling ZANU-PF and opposition ZAPU political parties endorsed the proposed unity agreement that will lead to the formation of a single party headed by President Mugabe. The government also hopes that the agreement will end the persistent unrest and banditry in the ZAPU stronghold of Matabeleland. On 19 April, President Mugabe announced a general amnesty, which included dissidents who lay down their arms. But within 12 hours of the announcement, dissidents killed a Catholic missionary and seriously injured another in the troubled province.

B. Communications

The chronic difficulties with the communications circuit lessened somewhat during the month. But outages on 3-4, 6-7, 8, 18, and 21 April totaled 37 hours. In addition, during the last 2 weeks of the month the incoming circuit experienced persistent garbling. Troubleshooting apparently isolated the problem in the [redacted] computer and the garbling cleared temporarily on 26-27 April, but inexplicably resurfaced on the 28th.

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C. Technical

1. The bureau received a pouch from ESG containing the Telebit Trailblazer modem for use as a backup commo system. Efforts are underway to install and test the equipment.

2. Reception of Lusaka, Harare, and Blantyre Domestic Services, which generally is weak, has worsened considerably in recent weeks, possibly due to seasonal reception conditions. Also, Luanda Domestic Service disappeared completely on 28 April. Monitors suspect an electrical or equipment failure in Luanda.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Afrikaans monitor trainee [redacted] entered on duty on 25 April, bringing the African Languages Section to full strength.

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2. A recruiting trip to Pretoria by the deputy bureau chief and the chief Portuguese monitor identified several promising candidates to fill the remaining vacancy in that section.

B. Building and Grounds

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[redacted]
Chief, Swaziland Bureau